

Supervisor Pam Slater-Price

# District 3 Slate

September 2009

Third District, County of San Diego

INSIDE: Banner Year For SD Growers/ Page 2

♦ Tasty Night Out In Tierrasanta/ Page 3



## San Elijo Nature Center Gains Coveted Honor

**G**reen has turned into a different color at the San Elijo Lagoon Nature Center, which has been accorded the prestigious LEED Platinum Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

"This is quite an honor for the San Elijo Lagoon Nature Center," explained Vice Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price, who championed the use of green building practices in the design and construction of the center. "The San Elijo nature center is the first public building in San Diego County to be LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Platinum certified. It blends into the lagoon's native habitat while minimizing its impact on the eco-system."

The international LEED standards apply to a building's design, construction, operations and maintenance that encourages innovation leading to energy savings, improved performance, water efficiency, reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and respect for natural resources. The \$5.6 million center is the focal point of the 915-acre preserve that contains 5 miles of hiking trails and is home to several endangered species.

See **GREEN**/Page 4



A standing-room only crowd marked the official debut of the San Elijo Lagoon Nature Center. Since it opened, the center has won an "Orchid" from the San Diego Architectural Foundation and its LEED Platinum certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

## Ready Again? Fire Season Is Here

**V**ice Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price, area fire officials and community leaders from District 3 met with their counterparts from CalFIRE to review attack plans and resources - especially aerial assets such as water-dropping planes and helicopters.

"Among the lessons learned during past conflagrations is that coordination and preparation go far in reducing the damage that can occur during a fire storm," said Supervisor Slater-Price.

"Fire officials know that three-quarters of this county have not been touched by wildfire in several decades. There is a lot of combustible fuel out there, and with the tinder-dry condi-

tions, an explosive situation can develop in a blink of the eye."

The fire storm that roared through the Los Angeles foothills in late August and early September serves as a reminder that diligence is key.

"This county has worked hard to reduce the amount of fuel in the back country by removing dead and dying trees and cutting back brush," said Supervisor Slater-Price. "Many homeowners have done their part by clearing a defensible space around their residences and taking necessary precautions."

See **FIRE**/Page 4



Vice Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price updates fire officials at the CalFIRE aerial attack base in Ramona.

## AROUND AND ABOUT IN THE THIRD DISTRICT

### *This Summer*

#### New Parks Chief Chosen

**B**rian Albright has returned to the County of San Diego to lead the Department of Parks and Recreation. He was serving a similar role with the City of Carlsbad; Albright previously was assistant director of county Parks and Recreation from 2003 to 2008, during which time the park system expanded by more than 12,000 acres. Albright is president of the American Parks and Recreation Association.

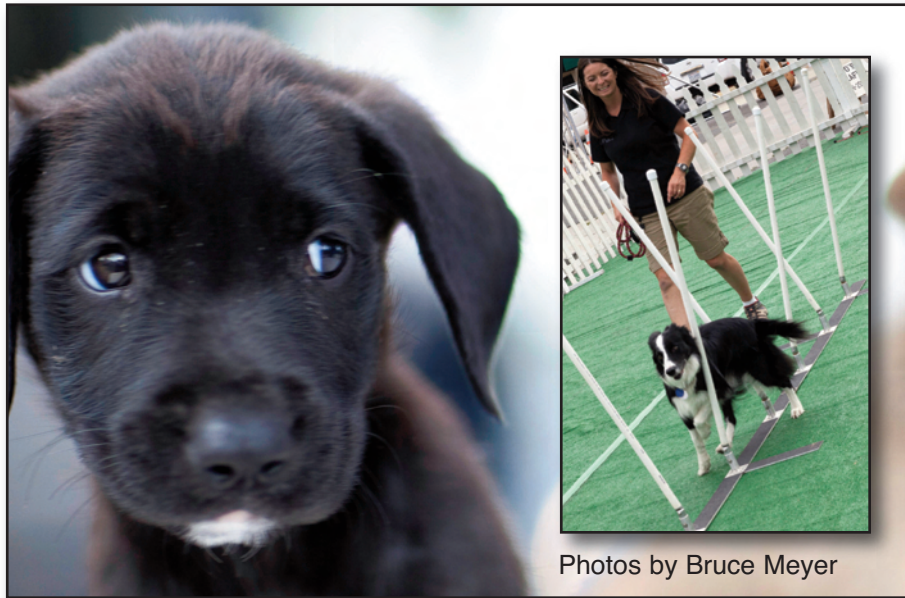
#### Child-Support Assistance Set

The economic downturn has had a significant impact on parents who owe child support. Over the past six months, the county Department of Child Support Services has seen collections to pay child support through unemployment intercepts increase by 130 percent. To address these economic impacts, DCSS is taking steps to help non-custodial parents who have suffered from financial hardship or job loss to get back on their feet. For more information, visit [www.sandiegochildsupport.org](http://www.sandiegochildsupport.org).

#### Grant Workshops Scheduled

The Department of Housing and Community Development is hosting 10 meetings throughout the county in September to explain how to apply for more than \$11.9 million in federal grants. The funds are from four programs:

- Community Development Block Grant - \$4.7 million to improve low-income communities through projects such as community centers, parks, drainage improvements and housing rehabilitation.
- HOME Investment Partnerships - \$4.2 million for affordable housing programs.
- Emergency Shelter Grant - More than \$206,000 to improve the quality and number of emergency shelters and transitional facilities for homeless persons and to help at-risk families or individuals from becoming homeless.
- Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS - \$2.7 million for affordable housing and services for low-income households of people living with HIV or AIDS. The schedule is at [www.sdhcd.com](http://www.sdhcd.com).



Photos by Bruce Meyer



#### TO THE DOGS, LITERALLY!

Canines took the spotlight when the Cardiff-by-the-Sea Chamber of Commerce hosted its fourth annual Dog Days of Summer, which was attended by between 6,000 and 7,000 two-footed creatures and their companions. Sixty vendors participated in the Dog Days of Summer event, which drew double the expected number of patrons. A \$6,000 community projects grant awarded by Vice Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price allowed the chamber to offset the costs of this fund-raiser for charity. The Cardiff chamber's mission is to promote small-town friendliness within the community toward residents and visitors. The chamber is an all-volunteer organization.

## Record Year For Farmers, Growers

**L**ocal growers recorded another record-breaking year, with crops valued at more than \$1.5 billion, a 1-percent increase compared to 2007 values, according to the annual evaluation done by the county Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures. The increase in productivity came during a period that saw water shipments curtailed, invasive pests and quarantines.

Crops that increased in value include bedding plants, avocados, eggs, cut flowers and foliage, and herbs. The top crop continued to be indoor flowering and foliage plants, with a value of more than \$319 million, although that is a drop of 1 percent from 2007.

San Diego County has more farms than any other county in the U.S., with almost 7,000, and the 16th largest agricul-

tural economy. Farms produce more than 200 commodities due to the wide variety of microclimates.

Highlights from 2008 include:

- The number of farms in San Diego County increased 27 percent between 2002 and 2007.
- Sixty-eight percent of San Diego County farms are between 1 and 9 acres. The median size of a farm is 4 acres.
- Nearly 27 percent of farms are operated by women.

Statewide, San Diego County is in the top five in the production of avocados, oranges, lemons, grapefruit, tangerines, floriculture, nursery, eggs, fresh market tomatoes, mushrooms and honey.

San Diego County has the largest community of organic growers in the state and nation, with 343 farms growing more than 150 crops.



## AROUND AND ABOUT IN THE THIRD DISTRICT



Patrons roam the booths or catch up with friends during the "Taste of Tierrasanta," an annual summer celebration that attracted more than 800 this year.

### TASTY CELEBRATION BRINGS TIERRASANTA TOGETHER...

**T**he evening was warm and the good times were evident as Tierrasanta residents celebrated the annual community fundraiser, the "Taste of Tierrasanta."

The Tierrasanta Foundation organizes the Taste of Tierrasanta each summer to raise funds for community organizations such as schools, sports teams and clubs, the library and recreation center, and local service organizations.

Tierrasanta's finest restaurants and dining establishments in neighboring communities provide samples or "tastes" of their signature dishes. More than 30 restaurants participated this year, sharing their culinary creations with more than 800 participants. Community organizations were awarded about \$50,000 in 2007 and 2008 through funds raised those years.

Helping to offset the event's expenses,

Vice Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price awarded a \$5,000 community projects grant that was used to put on the great community function.

"This is another example of how community grants benefit our residents," said Supervisor Slater-Price. "The Taste of Tierrasanta brought neighbors together while helping fund local non-profit groups that enhance the community's quality of life."



Cathy Parks and Tierrasanta Community Council member Richard Orr are happy with the success of this year's Taste of Tierrasanta.



Rockola had the diners up and dancing!



One of the popular eateries offering its treats was Indigo Café (left).

Allowing neighbors to catch up on the summer's activities is just one of the goals of the Taste of Tierrasanta.

## AROUND THE THIRD DISTRICT

### GREEN

*Continued from Page 1*

"The San Elijo Lagoon Nature Center is an example of a high-quality building; one of only a few of its kind in the nation," said Supervisor Slater-Price. "It teaches environmental understanding not only through its exhibits, but also through the construction of the building itself. I'm proud of the LEED Platinum certification. This center will continue to provide valuable environmental enrichment for generations to come."

The two-story, 5,600-square-foot facility, designed by Zagrodnik + Thomas Architects, incorporates such green building features as radiant floor heating, certified renewable lumber, photovoltaics that provide more than half of the building's energy, and natural light and ventilation. Its insulation is from recycled cotton, there is a green-planted roof to reduce heat, and recycled water is used to supply toilets.

"The U.S. Green Building Council uses a point system to evaluate how well a building is designed to conserve natural resources and reduce impacts on the environment.

The nature center is at 2710 Manchester Ave. in Cardiff-by-the-Sea and is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. except Christmas.



Ken Miller, fire marshal for the San Diego County Department of Planning and Land Use (center), answers a question while Ralph Steinhoff, county fire service coordinator, listens. They represent the San Diego County Regional Fire Authority.

### FIRE

*Continued from Page 1*

Wildfires have been devastating to San Diego County. In October 2007, at least 1,500 residences were destroyed and more than half-million acres were charred when wildfires burned across Southern California, pushed by superheated Santa Ana winds. The Witch Creek fire destroyed neighborhoods in Rancho Bernardo and western Escondido. The wildfires were so intense that they could be seen from space. Wildfire also destroyed neighborhoods in

Scripps Ranch and Rancho Bernardo during the 2003 season.

"There are common-sense rules to follow to reduce the risk of losing your home or loved ones," said Supervisor Slater-Price. "Keep a 100-foot radius from your house cleared of combustible vegetation. Plant fire-resistant landscaping. Trim trees or brush that overhangs your home. Don't give flames a reason to come after your home."

Most important, advised Supervisor Slater-Price, is to heed any warning concerning evacuation.

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